

EDWARD AND BESSIE TIDLAND

Edward H., 1888--1956

Bessie C., 1891--1988

"A twinkle in her eye and Lemon Meringue pie," that's how many remember Bessie Claudine (Davis) Tidland. She was a woman who lived frugally, disapproving of wastefulness, but generous in her thoughtfulness of others. She lived all of her 96 years in Camas. She was one of the community's last links with its past — a true backbone of society. She remembered dirt streets and when every housewife baked her own bread because Camas didn't have a bakery back then. She was baptized in Lacamas Lake at age 12, and much of her life was centered around the First Baptist Church, which both of her grandparents helped to found. She was a charter member of the LaCamas Navy Mothers Club No. 570 and a member of the Camas Community Garden Club for 24 years. She remembered the Yacolt burn, how it came through the orchard and burned fences, allowing the neighbor's cow to get in and destroy the beautiful garden. She married Edward Tidland Sept. 2, 1911 after a four-year courtship. They had four children, Edward Chester (Chet), Barbara Louise, and Charles Robert (Bob), and first-born, Sara, lost at birth.

The Tidlands were master builders. Edward's father, Frederick Louis, helped build the first paper mill in 1884 and, in 1902, he built the first wooden dam on local Lacamas Lake. In his career, Edward became a master mechanic and worked at the Crown Zellerbach mill, where he supervised many divisions until he eventually transferred to Pacific Coast Supply, in Portland, Oregon to serve as a mechanical engineering consultant for numerous paper mills. He gained a reputation as a mechanical genius and problem-solver, generating many ideas about how to improve machinery. Retiring after 44 years, Ed and his son, Bob, were most widely known for producing, patenting and marketing high-quality pneumatic shafts used in the paper, foil and film industries. Together, they built the Camas-based Tidland Corporation, a multi-national organization and the world's leader in winding accessories for the paper industry.

Extremely civic minded, Bob Tidland served many years on the Camas City Council and continues to be admired for his philanthropy. He served 6 years in the Navy and attributes his success to self-determination, discipline and never giving up.

Bob's wife, Roberta, (Bobbie) developed a great respect for her mother-in-law and credits her with giving her the bug for a lifetime of study, learning, teaching and sharing knowledge, especially the love of history. Roberta carries on the tradition of unselfishness by active involvement in the community. She is strongly motivated by her faith.

Six generations of Tidlands have been born and are living in Camas. All three of Bessie and Ed's grandsons, Ted, Tom, and Dale have been involved in the family business in some capacity and are raising their own families here.

(ivers Heritage Museum.)